

During these difficult economic times, when families across our country are struggling to provide food for their families, Rep. Slaughter believes it is important that the federal government plays a key role in providing our nation's youngest citizens with wholesome, full-balanced meals.

Rep. Slaughter is a cosponsor of H.R. 5504, the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act. This bill reauthorizes the school lunch and breakfast programs, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Bringing quality food to those who qualify would be made easier by this bill as it establishes new mechanisms by which schools with very high proportions of low-income children can receive federal reimbursement for free or reduced price meals, awards competitive grants to states to establish new or expand existing school breakfast program to low-income schools, and requires participants of the school lunch and breakfast programs to establish local school wellness policies that include goals for nutrition education and physical activity. This legislation was approved by the House Education and Labor Committee on July 15, 2010, by a vote of 32-13.

Additionally, on May 6, 2010, Rep. Slaughter joined 220 House colleagues in writing a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi in support of proper funding for the Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization. Specifically, the letter stated their support for President Obama's request for a \$1 billion increase in the Child Nutrition Programs and urges the Speaker to help identify funding sources for the proposed funding increase.

For the nearly 45 million individuals who would otherwise go without a meal – including the nearly 25 percent of children living in homes with inadequate food – these programs may provide the only meal they will receive for the day.